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Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Support/ Oppose
RAISED SENATE BILL 867: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF FIREWOOD TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.	Strongly Support

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For 120 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation issues.

I want to thank the Co-Chairs for raising Senate Bill 867, which would accomplish a few subtle but important goals to help combat the spread of destructive invasive pests (Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle) through the transport of firewood in Connecticut:

- This bill supports a common-sense distinction in penalties between individuals who transport low quantities of firewood for personal use, and businesses which transport a large volume of firewood for commercial purposes.
- This Bill gives law enforcement a tool that will deter lesser violations of the firewood transport ban while not requiring an automatic court appearance. This should make law enforcement more willing to impose a penalty when necessary.
- This bill does not interfere with cases where a firewood transporter crosses state or federal forest pest quarantine lines. A serious cross-boundary quarantine violation would still be referred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture/APHIS or the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for further action.

Thank you for raising this important bill and for the opportunity to testify! I would be glad to respond to any questions you may have.